

***NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE WESTERN REGION SUPPLEMENT 6-2004
APPLICABLE TO INSTRUCTION NWSI 10-320
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***Operations and Services
Marine and Coastal Weather Services, NWSPD 10-3
Coastal/Lakeshore Flood Services, NWSI 10-320***

HIGH SURF ADVISORIES AND COASTAL FLOOD WARNINGS

NOTICE: This publication is available at: <http://www.nws.noaa.gov/directives/>.

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<u>Signed</u>	<u>07/12/04</u>
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Director, Western Region	

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A. Western Region High Surf Advisory Criteria A-1

1. Introduction. This regional supplement provides additional guidance and instructions for Western Region (WR) Weather Forecast Offices (WFOs) regarding coastal flood warnings and high surf advisories. Written instructions cannot address every situation. Operational personnel must exercise initiative and professional judgment to minimize risk to public safety and property in instances when written instructions do not provide appropriate guidance. Personnel must balance safety and needs of customers against frequency of advisories or warnings and possible constraint of travel and commerce. Protection of life and property will take precedence in these decision-making processes.

2. Coastal Flood Warnings. Refer to NWSI 10-320 for general guidance and procedures concerning Coastal Flood Watches, Warnings, and Statements. NWSI 10-320 also provides examples of Coastal Flood Watches and Warnings. Note: In accordance with NWSI 10-320, Coastal Flood Advisories are no longer allowed.

3. High Surf Advisories. WFOs will use Coastal Flood Statements (CFW product category) to issue High Surf Advisories. High Surf Advisory criteria are defined according to local customer requirements. Specific criteria for WR Weather Forecast Offices (WFO) are listed in Appendix A. WFOs will notify WR Meteorological Services Division (MSD) if these criteria change. High Surf Advisories may be segmented to provide zone-specific detail regarding expected wave heights and/or timing information. Refer to NWSI 10-320 for additional guidance and example High Surf Advisories.

3.1 Valid time periods for issuance and effective duration. WFOs should issue High Surf Advisories when criteria is expected to be met or exceeded during the first through third forecast periods, and valid for the expected duration (not to exceed the latest forecast period in the WFO's Coastal Waters Forecast (CWF)).

- 3.2 Headlines. High Surf Advisories will be headlined in the Zone Forecast Product (ZFP). Headlines will include the appropriate geographical zone(s) and effective time periods, for example:

...HIGH SURF ADVISORY FOR THE REDWOOD COAST TONIGHT THROUGH

FRIDAY...

High Surf Advisories will also be headlined in Surf Zone Forecasts (SRF), if issued.

APPENDIX A - NWS Western Region High Surf Advisory Criteria

<u>Location</u>	<u>Criteria</u>
WFO Seattle (Cape Flattery, WA, to Cape Shoalwater, WA)	Significant Wave Height ≥ 20 FT (except ≥ 15 FT during summer and first event in Fall)
WFO Portland (Cape Shoalwater, WA, to Florence, OR)	Swell energy flux $\geq 100 \times 10^4$ j/ms
WFO Medford (Florence, OR, to Point St. George, CA)	Swell Height ≥ 20 FT
WFO Eureka (Point St. George, CA, to Point Arena, CA)	Significant Wave Height ≥ 18 FT
WFO Monterey/San Francisco Bay Area (Point Arena, CA, to Point Piedras Blancas, CA)	Significant Wave Height ≥ 15 FT
WFO Los Angeles/Oxnard (Point Piedras Blancas, CA to Point Conception, CA)	Significant Wave Height ≥ 10 FT
WFO San Diego (Point Conception, CA, to the U.S.-Mexico border)	Significant Wave Height ≥ 7 FT